Welcome to Åbo Akademi University
Vasa Campus

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LqHw78byBs0&list=PLEs1OFtRm4u9M3aywPn7Yq1w51h9yKhJg
TODAY’S PROGRAMME

- Where are you?
- Who are we?
- This week’s schedule & a little about next week

- Registration at ÅAU
- Tutors

Wednesday
- Åbo Akademi University
- Support services
FINLAND

- Independent republic since 1917
- Finnish name: Suomi
- Part of Sweden from 12th to the early 19th century
- An autonomous Grand Duchy within the Russian Empire from 1809 until the Russian Revolution
- Parliamentary democracy, one chamber with 200 members
- Swedish speaking minority of 5.3%, small Sami minority in north (1,900 people)

- Christianity: 73.8% lutheran, 1.1% orthodox
- Member of EU 1995
- https://finland.fi
FINLAND

- Population of 5.4 million
- Capital: Helsinki
- 18 inhabitants per square km
- 67% live in urban areas
- Surface area of 338,000 sq. km. (1,157 km x 542 km)
  - 70% forest, 10% water
  - 187,888 lakes
  - 179,584 islands – Europe’s largest archipelago
- Climate: cold winters (0—-30 °C), mild along the coast and relatively warm summers with almost 20 hours of daylight
- About 67,000 inhabitants – about one in five is a student
- Several universities and polytechnics represented: Åbo Akademi University (Swedish), University of Vaasa (Finnish), Hanken School of Economics, VAMK (Finnish UAS), Novia (Swedish UAS), University of Helsinki (bilingual law department)
- About 70 % Finnish-speaking, 23 % Swedish-speaking, 7 % other languages (the municipality of Korsholm around Vasa is about 70 % Swedish-speaking)
INTERNATIONAL SCENE, ÅAU VASA

- In total 25 exchange students during spring term 2017
  - 9 full-year students
  - 12 spring term students
  - 4 short-term teacher trainees (USA) in April
  - Austria, China, France, Germany, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, USA

- Also on campus: About 30 Master’s students within Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research from Bangladesh, Finland, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria, Uganda
THIS WEEK’S SCHEDULE

- Orientation
  - Exchange students: Advising sessions with Susanne
- Practicalities – the tutors will help
  - Student Union Fee (58 euros/term)
  - Starting Package (cost: 20 euros, 50 deposit)
  - Student Union Card: frank.fi
  - Sign the rental agreements: Realia (Lärkan) or VOAS
  - Get a Finnish Personal Identity Code (Local Register Office Magistraten/Maistraatti)
TUTOR GROUPS

Heidi Hahto
- Rebekah Best
- Monica Dias Beltran
- Karina Espinosa Hernandez
- Beresina Oksana
- Rodrigo Veláques Mendoza
- Amelie Welle
- Anna Carter
- Haley Riffle

Fredrika Lillqvist
- Greer Gamer
- Sabrina Heitzer
- Núria Mas Argemi
- Daniela Moguel Dominicó
- Maria Rojas Albores
- Jana Simon
- Bryan O’Neal
- Simone Rall
Tell us!

Ask your neighbour and present to us:

- Who are you?
- Where do you come from?
- What brought you here?
- What do you study at home? What will you study here in Vasa?
- What would you like to do in the future, how would you like to use your university degree?
- What makes you smile?
REGISTRATION EXCHANGE

- Exchange students fill the User Agreement form for ICT services and hand in the agreement part
- Then log in to the Selfservice system (www.abo.fi > Selfservice), where the Student Union Membership fee is paid with credit card or through a Finnish bank
- In case of problems, turn to Susanne
REGISTRATION
DEGREE STUDENTS

- Degree students (PEACE) register online through the application system...
- ...or pay the Student Union fee (invoice has been sent through e-mail) – and register with the Academic Affairs on F4 (Student Affairs Officer, Ms. Ann-May Nordmyr)
- Bring the receipt of the payment of the Student Union membership fee, ID, admission letter and original degree certificates (the ones that were the basis for your application)
  - Certificates will be returned within approx. two weeks
- Register no later than 13th of January, or you will lose your study entitlement!
YOU KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN IN FINLAND FOR A LONG TIME, WHEN...

1. When a stranger on the street smiles at you:
   a) you assume he is drunk  
   b) he is insane  
   c) he’s an american

2. You don't think twice about putting the wet dishes away in the cupboard to dry.

3. You see a student taking a front row seat and wonder "Who does he think he is!!??"

4. Silence is fun.

5. Your coffee consumption exceeds 6 cups a day

6. Your idea of unforgivable behavior now includes walking across the street when the light is red and there is no walk symbol, even though there are no cars in sight.

7. You finally stop asking your class "Are there any questions?"

8. You refuse to wear a hat, even in -30°C weather.


10. You can peel a boiled potato like lightning.

11. You’ve become lactose intolerant.

12. You accept that 80°C in a sauna is chilly, but 20°C outside is freaking hot.

13. "No comment" becomes a conversation strategy.

14. You can't understand why people live anywhere but in Finland.

   (Helsingin sanomat)
ÅBO AKADEMI UNIVERSITY

- The only Swedish-language multidisciplinary university in Finland
- Approx. 6,500 students, of which approx. 1,800 in Vasa
- 5,500 undergraduate, 1,000 postgraduate
- 1,300 employees; 700 working in education and research
- Annual budget of 115 million euros
- 1,500 scientific publications annually
GOVERNANCE
Situated in the old parts of Åbo and by the waterside of Vasa

Donated residential homes and old factory buildings, also modern buildings

Academill in Vasa, an old renovated mill

Also smaller campuses in Jakobstad and Helsingfors
Over 900 international students; 250 exchange students (50 in Vasa per year)
Over 200 ÅAU-students study abroad annually
2016 ten international Master’s Programmes in English; as of 2017 six international Master’s Programmes (including PEACE)
GRADUATES

- 500 masters degrees per year (unemployment 5.6% 2015)
- High number of doctoral degrees (approximately 70/year)
- Very good employment situation among graduates and doctors: 92% work with tasks that correspond to their education
UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE

- Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology, Åbo/Turku
- Faculty of Education and Welfare Studies – in Vasa
- Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Economics – the Department of Political Science with Mass Communication in Vasa
- Faculty of Science and Engineering – the Department of Energy Technology in Vasa
Teacher Education – responsible for the education of teachers for the Swedish-speaking areas in Finland

- Department of Early Childhood Education situated in Jakobstad (will be moved to Vasa)
- Relocated education programmes also in Helsinki
- Social sciences and health sciences
Teacher programmes – Bachelor of Arts (Education)
- Pre-school teacher (kindergarten)

Teacher programmes – Master of Arts (Education)
- Class teacher (primary school teacher)
- Teacher of special education
- Subject teacher – sloyd/home economics
- Subject teacher – other subjects – mostly in Åbo

Other programmes – Bachelor/Master/Doctor of Arts (Education)
- General and adult education
Pedagogical studies of 60 ECTS for

- Subject Teachers (Secondary and Upper Secondary Teacher)
- Vocational School Teachers
- Study Counsellors
- Special Teachers in Vocational Schools
- Driving Instructors
PROGRAMMES
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES

- Bachelor/Master/Doctor of Health Sciences
  - Study programme in Caring Science
- Bachelor/Master/Doctor of Social Sciences
  - Social Sciences (Social Policy/Developmental Psychology, Master’s Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research)
- Bachelor/Master/Doctor of Social Sciences (Faculty of Social Sciences, Business and Economics)
  - Political Science with Masscommunication
Basic, intermediate and advanced studies in your major

Minors/Subsidiary subjects

Language and Communication

Optional Studies

Practicum (e.g. Teacher Training Practice)
Teacher education students do the lion’s share of their practice at Teacher Training Schools, which also function as normal schools in the municipality.

Vasa Teacher Training School Vasa Övningsskola (VÖS or "Övis") is part of Åbo Akademi University.

Offers didactical practices within a wide range of curriculums, including the IB Programme.
Two-year Master’s Programme in Peace, Mediation and Conflict Research (120 credits/ECTS)
Degree Awarded: Master of Social Sciences

Compulsory courses 60 credits (Advanced level), examples
- 705906.0 PEACE1. Contemporary peace and conflict studies (5 cr)
- 705903.0 Research methods (5 cr)
- 705905.0 Scientific writing (5 cr)
- 705975.0 Master’s thesis (35 cr)

Elective courses 60 credits (Advanced level), examples
- 705937.0 The power of nonviolence (5 cr)
- 705934.0 Human aggressive behaviour (5 cr)
- 705960.0 Self knowledge and negotiations (5 cr)
- 705962.0 Peace education (5 cr)
- 705954.0 Psychology of evil (5 cr)
- 705952.0 The role of UN in peacebuilding (5 cr)
- 705953.0 Inner Peace
- 705955.0 Nonkilling (5 cr)
- 705961.0 Empowerment of women (5 cr)
- 705964.0 Torture and its treatment (5 cr) IV
STUDENT LIFE

- Active student union
- Student apartments and rooms at a reasonable price
- Over 60 student associations
- ESN for exchange students; ISAV (International Students’ Association of Vaasa) for degree students
- Excursions, parties, language exchange, traditional student festivities
EDUCATION SERVICES – INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Susanne Nylund-Torp, Coordinator (study advisor for PEACE and Political Science (Swedish programme))
  - susanne.nylund-torp(at)abo.fi
  - 06-324 7164
  - Location E406

- Available most weekdays 12-15, appointments via e-mail or the booking system.
OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES

- Tutors :0)
- International affairs website: www.abo.fi/exchange
- Student Union
- Career services www.abo.fi/arbetsforum
- www.abo.fi/dc/minsture/
- Electronic keys to Academill – shop.abo.fi (25 euros), for other keys, ask at Technical Service (B1)
- Libraries – visit to Tritonia
- Computer facilities, safety....